Application No. 10/697,780 Amendt. dated December 21, 2004 Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2004

## Remarks:

In this matter, it is especially important that the resources of the Applicant are minimized. Thus, the above amendments are intended to place the claims in a position to avoid the obviousness rejections based on the Kaplan and Blaisdell references. It is hopeful that this will expedite matters regarding this application. If the claims are not viewed by the Examiner as being in allowable form, however, we would ask the Examiner to please contact the undersigned at the number below for a brief conference before mailing an action.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall S. Honeyman

Reg. No. 48,114

MSH/tjd

SHOOK, HARDY, & BACON L.L.P. 2555 Grand Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64018-2613 816/474-6550